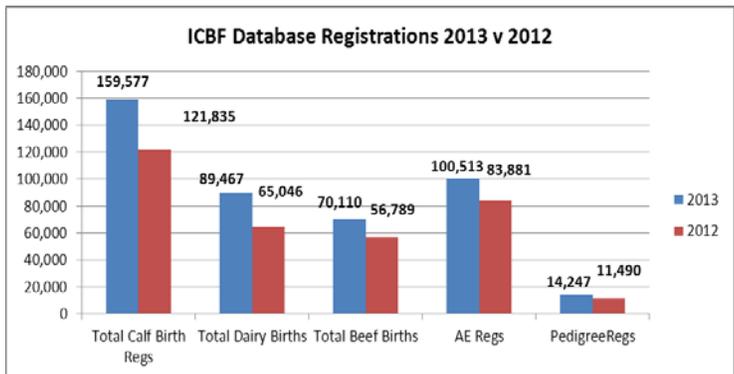
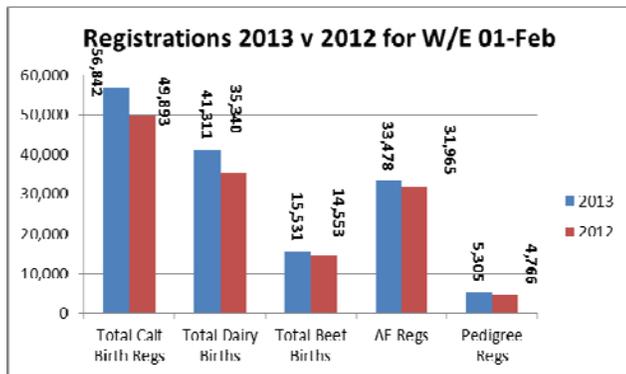


ICBF Weekly Update 1st February 2013

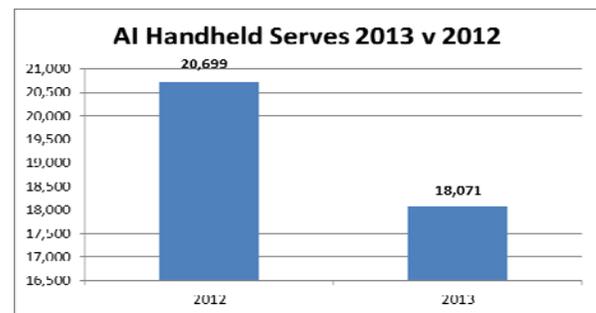
1 Important Dates

- ICBF Audit & Finance Sub Committee meeting** – Thursday 14th March, 10:00 to 14:00, Horse & Jockey.
- ICBF Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th March, 10:30 to 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.
- Sheep Ireland Board Meeting** – Thursday 28th March, at 14:00, Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise.

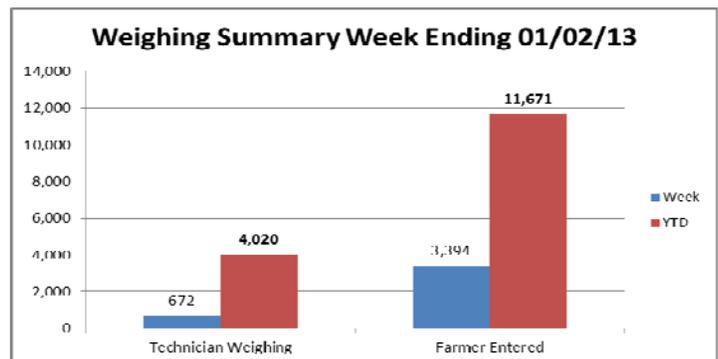
2 Database



- The stats above are compiled with the assistance of DAFM AIM systems.
- In the Suckler scheme, the number of 2012 born calves with meal introduced is 574,323 with the number of animals weaned at 492,931.
- BVD test results continue to be received at ICBF and are being processed accordingly. The compulsory phase began on 1st January 2013 and 117,000 samples have been received since then compared with 15,000 in the same period last year.
- Good progress continues around the design of the Beef HerdPlus outputs to incorporate the new Euro-Star indexes, and the development work on these is continuing.
- The graph above shows Inseminations recorded on AI Handhelds in 2013 compared with 2012.



- This week there were 672 weights received through the technician service and 3,394 weights recorded by farmers. The graph shows the week and year to date totals.

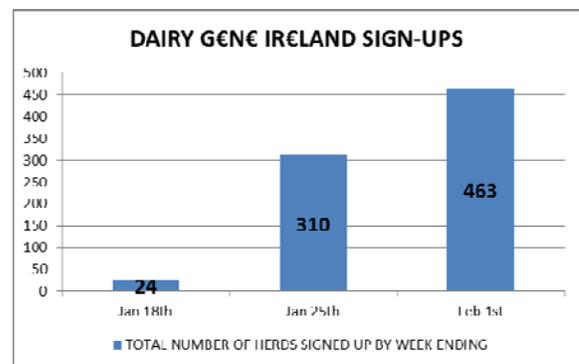


3 Sheep Ireland

- ✚ Breeder sign-ups continue to come into the Sheep Ireland office in strong numbers. Breeders are obviously recognising the potential that STAP will hopefully deliver to breeding in Ireland. The way in which commercial farmers source their rams varies hugely across the country. Some farmers take time to study evaluation figures and source rams lambs with a view to using them the following year, others attend their local mart on the day they wish to commence breeding and look for ‘value’ at the bottom end of the market.
- ✚ These are the two extremes of how farmers can approach sheep breeding and a major benefit of STAP from a Sheep Ireland point of view is that it will hopefully introduce farmers to the potential progress that can be made by using better rams and rams with some indication of genetic merit.
- ✚ The number of commercial farmers that have contacted us in the past number of days that are interested in the flock recording element of STAP – Task 2, has been very encouraging. We have made contact with so many farmers that are already using simple recording practices on their farms, from basic weight recording to more in-depth recording of ewe and ram performance. These farmers are hungry for information and view STAP as a fantastic development for the industry, not due to the financial return they will get as a result of participation, but from what they will learn from other progress sheep farmers.

4 GENEIRELAND® - Dairy

- ✚ Sign-ups are coming in at a steady pace.
- ✚ Calls to herd-owners are on-going.
- ✚ The average EBI of the Holstein-Friesian panel is €75.



5 HerdPlus®



- ✚ EBI reports are now available online.
- ✚ All dairy pocket notebooks have now been posted.
- ✚ Work is on-going on the development of a new HerdPlus “Drystock Performance Report”.
- ✚ Once finished, non suckler HerdPlus beef members will have a dedicated report.
- ✚ The report will give an overview of the genetic makeup of a farmer’s drystock herd.

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